

**MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING ALL CHANGES MADE****IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A starch composition comprising a first fraction comprising cross-linked starch and at least a second fraction comprising ~~depolymerised~~ depolymerized starch.
2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said first fraction comprises starch cross-linked by using sodium trimetaphosphate, phosphorus oxytrichloride or adipic anhydride.
3. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein said first fraction further comprises ~~stabilised~~ stabilized starch.
4. (Amended) A composition according to claim 3 wherein said first fraction is ~~stabilised~~ stabilized by hydroxyalkylation.
5. (Amended) A composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein said second fraction comprises ~~depolymerised~~ depolymerized starch obtained by oxidation.
6. (Amended) A composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 wherein said second fraction further comprises ~~stabilised~~ stabilized starch.
7. (Amended) A composition according to claim 6 wherein said second fraction is ~~stabilised~~ stabilized by acetylation.
8. (Amended) A composition according to ~~any one of claims 1-7~~ claim 1 wherein said starch is derived from potato.

9. (Deleted) ~~Use of a starch composition according to anyone of claims 1 to 8 in the preparation of a foodstuff.~~

10. (Deleted) ~~Use according to claim 9 wherein the use of said composition at least partly replaces the use of gelatine in said foodstuff.~~

11. (Deleted) ~~Use according to claim 9 or 10 wherein said foodstuff comprises confectionery.~~

12. (Deleted) ~~A method for preparing a thickened foodstuff comprising mixing a starch composition according to anyone of claims 1 to 8 with a water-based liquid.~~

13. (Deleted) ~~A method according to claim 12 wherein said foodstuff comprises confectionery.~~

14. (Deleted) ~~Foodstuff comprising a starch composition according to anyone of claims 1 to 8.~~

15. (Deleted) ~~Confectionery comprising a starch composition according to anyone of claims 1 to 8.~~

Please add the following claims:

16. A method for preparing a thickened foodstuff comprising mixing a starch composition comprising a first fraction comprising cross-linked starch and at least a second fraction comprising depolymerized starch with a water-based liquid.

17. A method according to claim 16 wherein said foodstuff comprises confectionery.

18. Foodstuff comprising a starch composition comprising a first fraction comprising cross-linked starch and at least a second fraction comprising depolymerized starch.

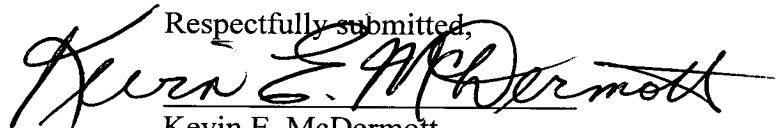
19. A foodstuff according to claim 18 wherein the use of said composition at least partly replaces the use of gelatine in said foodstuff.

20. Confectionery comprising a starch composition comprising a first fraction comprising cross-linked starch and at least a second fraction comprising depolymerized starch.

### CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in proper form for examination and request early examination.

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Respectfully submitted,  
  
Kevin E. McDermott  
Registration No.: 35,946  
Attorney for Applicants

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP  
6900 Jericho Turnpike  
Syosset, New York 11791  
(516) 822-3550

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